



# Ohio High School Athletic Association

Doug Ute, Executive Director

Tuesday, January 21, 2025

## **ADMINISTRATOR UPDATE**

2024-25 School Year, No. 12

**TO:** Member Schools' Superintendents, Principals and Athletic Administrators

**FR:** OHSAA Executive Director's Office

The following are updates and reminders for member school superintendents, principals and athletic administrators. Please share this update with other interested administrators and coaches on your staff.

### **NEW! OHSAA Board of Directors Approves Recommendation to Expand Tournament Divisions in Track & Field and Cross Country Beginning Next Fall**

The OHSAA Board of Directors unanimously approved a proposal last Thursday at their regularly scheduled meeting to expand postseason tournament divisions in track and field and cross country. Track and field will add two divisions, expanding from three divisions to five, while cross country will add one division, expanding from three divisions to four.

The expansion will take effect beginning with the 2025-26 school year. As part of the plan, a smaller percentage of schools will be placed in Division I in both sports, with the other tournament divisions divided as evenly as possible. In the current three-division format for both sports, the number of schools in each division is divided as equally as possible.

The expansion for track and field and cross country follows the OHSAA's recent expansion in several team sports, including basketball, baseball, soccer, softball and girls volleyball. Over the last several years, the Ohio Association of Track and Cross Country Coaches has made several proposals for expansion.

Details and tournament format information will be announced when the board approves the tournament regulations several months before each tournament.

### **NEW! State Basketball Tournaments Finals Ticketing Information**

Athletic administrators will be sent information on Wednesday, Jan. 29, about the digital ticketing purchase process for the state girls and boys basketball finals through the OHSAA's digital ticketing partner, HomeTown Ticketing. The window for schools to order tickets will be open for a week prior to tickets going on sale to the general public.

Each OHSAA member school has access to purchase up to eight (8) all-session tickets for the girls finals AND eight (8) all-session tickets for the boys finals. Those eight tickets can be located together. Each school this week will be provided with ONE presale code that works for both boys and girls tournament tickets. Purchasers have the opportunity to click on and select their seats from a seat map of the University of Dayton Arena. All-session ticket sales will be valid through Mar. 9 for the girls finals and Mar. 16 for the boys finals or until your school's presale code has been used to purchase your eight (8) all-session tickets. All-session tickets and center court club ticket sales for the public begin Wednesday, Feb. 5. Single-game tickets for the state finals go on sale Monday, Mar. 10 (girls) and Monday, Mar. 17 (boys).

The championship games for the 2025 state basketball tournaments will again be held at the University of Dayton Arena, with the girls on Friday and Saturday, Mar. 14-15, and the boys on Friday and Saturday, Mar. 21-22. With the expansion to seven tournament divisions that begins this year, the state semifinals will be held at neutral sites to be announced. The girls state semifinals will be held Mar. 7-9 and the boys state semifinals will be held Mar. 14-16. For questions, including the steps to claim tickets, contact OHSAA Customer Experience Manager Claudia Markoff at [cmarkoff@ohsaa.org](mailto:cmarkoff@ohsaa.org).

### **2025 OHSAA State Basketball Tournament Schedule**

#### **Girls Semifinals (Sites and Times TBA)**

**Friday, Mar. 7** – Divisions VI and VII

**Saturday, Mar. 8** – Divisions III, IV and V

**Sunday, Mar. 9** – Divisions I and II

#### **Girls Finals (University of Dayton Arena)**

**Friday, Mar. 14** – Division III (1:00); Division IV (4:15), and Division II (7:30)

**Saturday, Mar. 15** – Division V (10:45); Division VI (2:00); Division VII (5:15), and Division I (8:30)

## **2025 OHSAA State Basketball Tournament Schedule**

### **Boys Semifinals (Sites and Times TBA)**

**Friday, Mar. 14** – Divisions VI and VII

**Saturday, Mar. 15** – Divisions III, IV and V

**Sunday, Mar. 16** – Divisions I and II

### **Boys Finals (University of Dayton Arena)**

**Friday, Mar. 21** – Division III (1:00); Division IV (4:15), and Division II (7:30)

**Saturday, Mar. 22** – Division V (10:45); Division VI (2:00); Division VII (5:15), and Division I (8:30)

## **NEW! OHSAA Scholarship Program Information to Be Emailed Next Tuesday**

Athletic administrators will be receiving information next Tuesday, Jan. 28, (and principals will be copied) on the process to begin nominating qualified senior student-athletes for an OHSAA Scholar-Athlete Scholarship. Like last year, two-hundred \$1,000 scholarships will be presented. Each school may submit only one male, one female, one male ethnic minority and one female ethnic minority candidate for scholarship consideration. The on-line application process will include information being entered by a school administrator (principal or athletic administrator), the student and a school guidance counselor. To ensure that emails do not get trapped by firewalls/sent to a spam folder, this year's process will again include the school administrator emailing student candidates directly with the application information. Reminders:

- Recipients of any athletic scholarships (full or partial) in NCAA Division I or II institutions or appointees to military academies **are not eligible**.
- The OHSAA has two (2) **separate** scholar-athlete recognition opportunities. Besides the Scholar-Athlete Scholarship Program outlined in the memo, each member high school has the opportunity to present a senior male and a senior female with an OHSAA Scholar-Athlete Award, a certificate which exemplifies the commitment to academic excellence while participating in interscholastic athletics and is generally presented during the school's senior assembly in the spring. While each honor is important, these awards are different since not every member school will have a scholar-athlete scholarship recipient, but each school has the opportunity to present two OHSAA Scholar-Athlete Awards.

## **NEW! Need Help With Sporting Behavior at Your School? The NFHS Can Help**

Do you need help in improving sporting behavior at your school or school community? The National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) can help with the #BenchBadBehavior Toolkit. In addition to assets like posters, videos, program ads and web ads, other resources are available to support you in creating a positive atmosphere at your events. To download the Toolkit, go here: [https://benchbadbehavior.com/toolkit?utm\\_source=NFHS+Master+List&utm\\_campaign=eff1584162-NFS-0201-SA-Toolkit-1&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_-1d07c3f713-29134945](https://benchbadbehavior.com/toolkit?utm_source=NFHS+Master+List&utm_campaign=eff1584162-NFS-0201-SA-Toolkit-1&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_-1d07c3f713-29134945).

## **NEW! OHSAA Winter Sports Tournament Draw Dates**

Here are the dates for the upcoming OHSAA winter sports tournament draws. Schools will be provided details on the draws from their respective OHSAA District Athletic Board.

**Swimming & Diving** – Sunday, Jan. 26

**Ice Hockey** – Wednesday, Feb. 5

**Gymnastics** – Sunday, Feb. 2

**Girls and Boys Wrestling** – Sunday, Feb. 9

**Bowling** – Sunday, Feb. 2

**Boys Basketball** – Sunday, Feb. 9

**Girls Basketball** – Sunday, Feb. 2

## **REMINDERS**

### **Mark the Date: OHSAA Fall Tournaments Financial Review is January 28**

On Tuesday, Jan. 28, starting at 8:30 a.m., the OHSAA finance team, led by Chief Financial Officer Laura Vermilya and joined by Executive Director Doug Ute, will be hosting a virtual meeting for member school administrators to provide a financial review of the OHSAA's 2024 fall tournaments. All administrators are welcome to participate, and no advance registration is required. Here is a link to access the live presentation: [Join the meeting now](#). For those who want to join the meeting via phone, the call-in number is 614-696-5603 and conference I.D. is 593 770 311#.

### **Athletic Administrators: Remind Coaches to Update Scores in MaxPreps App**

With the MaxPreps Ratings Percentage Index (RPI) being used again this year for seeding for all girls and boys basketball tournaments, athletic administrators are asked to remind their basketball coaches to report scores in their MaxPreps account within 24 hours after each contest. As reminders: 1.) Make sure your school's varsity schedules are updated and accurate. If you have any missing games, please add them. 2.) After your game, open the MaxPreps **Admin app** and update your score in your account. 3.) The **WINNING TEAM** is responsible for reporting scores into MaxPreps. Only one team needs to report the score. If playing at a neutral site or playing out-of-state, which will happen frequently during Martin Luther King Jr. and President's Day weekends, be sure to input your score. It is highly recommended that each school check the results to ensure accuracy.

The RPI rankings may only be accessed on the OHSAA website, and the composite rankings are now available. They will be updated daily. The final day for score submissions will be prior to the OHSAA Basketball Tournament Draw meetings, with the exact date and

time to be announced. For questions pertaining to your account, how to input scores, adding an additional coach to the school account, etc., contact MaxPreps rep Eric Frantz at [efrantz@maxpreps.com](mailto:efrantz@maxpreps.com) or view the MaxPreps Support link [HERE](#).

### **[Athletic Administrators: Time to Update Your Swimming & Diving Emergency Contact Form](#)**

This is a reminder that athletics administrators are required to update their school's Emergency Contact Form within the school *myOHSAA* account. These forms are the only way for site managers to determine which coaches have been authorized to accompany student-athletes to the OHSAA tournament series and possess the appropriate credentials to coach in Ohio. **Coaches who are not listed on this form shall be denied deck access to your event.** The directions for updating this can be found here: <https://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/Sports/Swimming-Diving/2022-23/SchoolEmergencyContactForm.pdf>.

### **[Competitive Balance Roster Data Entry Period Opens for Winter Sports](#)**

Administrators are reminded that the window to enter Competitive Balance roster data for the winter sports of boys basketball and girls basketball opens on **February 3, 2025**. Athletic administrators, or their designees, must submit their roster data within FinalForms. The deadline to submit basketball roster data is **Friday, April 4, 2025**. **ALL** schools that compete in varsity basketball contests must submit their roster data by that date. All other winter sports are **not** part of Competitive Balance. Note that the deadline for submitting Competitive Balance roster data for the fall sports of football, soccer and volleyball has passed and your athletic administrator should have received an email that allows schools to appeal the fall competitive balance data that was submitted. For questions, please contact either Ronald Sayers ([rsayers@ohsaa.org](mailto:rsayers@ohsaa.org)) or Alexis Holderman ([aholderman@ohsaa.org](mailto:aholderman@ohsaa.org)).

### **[OHSAA Board Resolution for Membership Cards](#)**

The OHSAA Constitution requires the board of education or similar governing body to adopt a resolution authorizing its schools that were members during the 2024-25 school year to continue membership for the 2025-26 school year. The OHSAA Board Resolution Card, which requires a signature from the governing body's president and superintendent/head of school, will be mailed later this month. Please read the instructions that accompany the card, complete the required items and return the card to the OHSAA office using the pre-stamped envelope provided **no later than June 30, 2025**. For questions, please contact Alexis Holderman ([aholderman@ohsaa.org](mailto:aholderman@ohsaa.org)).

### **[Ohio State Coach Beyond Program Offers Student-Athlete Mental Health Trainings](#)**

The Ohio State University's Coach Beyond program has a **FREE** one-hour training session on Supporting Student-Athlete Mental Health that is approved for the new PAP requirements in Ohio. Access and instructions for completing the **online training** requirement can be found here through the USCAH platform: <https://uscah.com/cdn/FREE-Coach-Beyond-USCAH-MH-Training-QR-2.pdf>. Want an **in-person training** from Coach Beyond at your district? Reach out to [coach\\_beyond@osu.edu](mailto:coach_beyond@osu.edu) to start scheduling!

**Coach Beyond Online Training: Mental Strategies for Athletic Performance.** Every coach knows that part of performing well in sport is having a strong mental game. Knowing *how* to build and use the right mental skills can be challenging to figure out! Coach Beyond has launched an online course that give coaches practical tools for teaching mental skills and strategies to help athletes be their best on and off the field/mat/court, etc. This course, developed by Coach Beyond's experts in sport psychology and mental performance, covers 8 different mental skills that can be taught to athletes!

**Take it here:** [go.osu.edu/cbmentalstrategies](https://go.osu.edu/cbmentalstrategies).

**About Coach Beyond:** In 2021, the OHSAA and LiFEsports at The Ohio State University started collaborative work to change the landscape of coach training and education in Ohio. Ultimately, this partnership grew into a statewide initiative known as Coach Beyond. Over the last three years, a team of coaches, athletic administrators, OHSAA administrators and LiFEsports leaders set out to audit coaching education, conduct a statewide needs assessment, design and pilot trainings and ultimately train 15,000 coaches by June 2024. This goal has been reached, with 23,500-plus coaches receiving this training. To learn more about Coach Beyond, please visit this website: <https://lifesports.osu.edu/coach-beyond/about-coach-beyond/>.

Thank you for your attention to this information. Please contact us if we can be of service!